becoming a closed and manipulated society.

डा० वल्लभभाई रामजीभाई कथीरिया: माननीय सभापति महोदय, सरकार का ऐसा कोई प्रयोजन नहीं है। केवल गवर्नमेंट एडेड् एजुकेशनल इंस्टीयूट और ...(**व्यवधान**)...

डा० कर्ण सिंह: अनिवार्य है सर। एक मिनट।

श्री सभापति: माननीय मंत्री महोदय, आपने जो प्रश्न उठाया है वह काफी महत्वपूर्ण है। इसलिए आप तैयार हो जाइए मैं आगे किसी समय इस पर चर्चा कराऊंगा।

डा० कर्ण सिंह: महोदय, एक छोटी सी बात अर्ज करूं। अगर यह कोष बनाते है। and makes it optional जो कोष में देना चाहे वह कोष में दे, यह ठीक है। लेकिन उन्होंने अनिवार्य कर लिया है कोष में देना। यह बहुत ही आपत्तिजनक है और कभी स्वीकार नहीं करेंगे इस देश के लोग। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: We can have a detailed discussion on this issue ...(**व्यवधान**)...

डा० वल्लभभाई रामजीभाई कथीरिया: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं एक क्लेरिफिकेशन करना चाहूंगा कि यह कोई अनिवार्य नहीं किया गया है, यह तो ऑप्शनल है, केवल गवर्नमेंट एडेड इंस्टीट्यूट के लिए यह प्रावधान बनाया गया है, बाकी कोई प्राइवेट इंस्टीट्यूट के लिए और कोई सेल्फ फाइनेंस के लिए यह कम्पलसरी नहीं है

Centrally Sponsored environment projects in Assam

*86. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored environment projects launched in the State of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the total amount provided by Government for this purpose duirng this period;

(c) the details of the achievements made in this regard; and

(d) the details of such projects proposed to be launched in the State during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.

BAALU) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Details of Centrally Sponsored Environment Projects implemented in the State of Assam during the last three years, the funds released by Government, their achievements and details of Projects to be continued during the Tenth Plan are given below.

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Schemes	Funds released by Government during the last three years	Achievements/Objectives
1.	Integrated Afforestation & Eco-Development Projects	78.3	2750 ha. of plantation achieved during Ninth Plan
2.	Non Timber Forest Products	186.56	2329 ha. of plantation during Ninth Plan
3.	Area Oriented Fuel-wood & Fooder Projects	111.89	10593 ha. of fuel-wood plantation during Ninth Plan
4.	National Afforestation Programme*	0.00	The schemes at 1, 2 & 3 above were merged with the scheme in the Tenth Plan. No funds could be released during 2002-03 since the State Government did not adopt resolution for Forest Development Agency mechanism.
5.	National Parks & sanctuaries*	549.89	Assisted up to 17 National Parks & Sanctuaries
6.	Central Zoo Authority*	179.64	Assam State Zoo & Guwahati Veterinary College were supported
7.	Environment Education*	65.59	2300 Eco-Clubs & NGOs assisted
8.	Project Elephant*	255.5	For protection of Elephants, elephant habitat & cooridors etc.
9.	Project Tiger*	267.8	For protection of Tigers and their habitat.
10.	Eco-Development	89.32	Ecological Development of important

Sl. No.	Schemes	Funds released by Government during the last three years	Achievements/Objectives
			protected areas.
11.	Infrastructure Development	925	Construction of buildings, roads, communication networks, river patrolling etc.
12.	Forest fire Control & Management	25.46	Maintenance of firelines, watch-towers, fire fighting equipment & communication.
13.	Integrated Forest Protection Scheme*	376.6	The schemes at 11 & 12 above were merged with the scheme in the Tenth Plan.
14.	Wetland conservation*	14.80	For conservation of Deepar Beel wetland
15.	UNDP-GEF/CCF-small grant programme	14.39	Implemented through NGOs. Bio-diversity protection and cultivation of medicinal plants.
16.	Assistance to Regional Botanical Gardens*	15.25	For promoting small centres for *ex-situ* conservation of rare and endemic plants
17.	Biosphere Reserves*	92.26	For conservation of Dibru-Sikhowa & Manas Biosphere reserves.
18.	National Natural Resource Management Systems*	2.81	For the study of Subansiri river with respect to its migration and erosion

*Schemes being implemented during the Tenth Plan

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Sir, from the reply of the hon. Minister, it has been seen that during the Ninth Plan not a single environment project was implemented. My question was, in the Tenth Plan, which are the environment projects that have been taken up by the Government. I also asked about National Parks. The Minister has given reply with respect to the whole country. However, I had asked about the details of the projects taken up in the State of Assam. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what projects the Government has taken up for the famous National Park of Kaziranga.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the State of Assam is in the North-East. In fact, the Government of India is concentrating heavily on the development of North-East States. Especially, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, is giving a lot of importance to the North-Eastern Region. Sir, to be precise, we have funded the North-East to an extent of Rs. 60 crores in 2000-01, which is fully spent, 100 per cent spent. In 2001-02, it is 99.7 per cent. In 2002-03, it is 100 per cent. As far as the question regarding specific projects of Assam is concerned, I would like to say that in 2000-01, only 13.13 crores was spent, in 2001-02, the expenditure was Rs. 7.92 crores and in 2002-03 it was, 11.46 crores spent. As far as the details of the projects are concerned, I would like to say that for afforestation programme, it is Rs 145.53 lakhs in 2000-01, and Rs. 123.18 lakhs in 2001-02; for Infrastructural development, it is Rs. 825 lakhs in 2000-01, and Rs. 100 lakhs in 2001-02; for Forest Fire control and management, it is Rs. 15.5 lakhs in 2001-01, and Rs. 9.96 lakhs in 2001-02; for development of national parks and sanctuaries, it is Rs. 317.20 lakhs in 2000-01, Rs. 70.55 lakhs in 2001-02, and Rs. 162.135 lakhs in 2002-03; for Project Tiger, it is Rs. 156 lakhs in 2000-01, Rs. 46 lakhs in 2001-02, and Rs. 65.70 lakhs in 2002-03; and for Project Elephant, it is Rs. 45 lakhs in 2000-01, ...*(Interruptions)*... Rs. 94 lakhs in 2001-02; and Rs. 116 lakhs in 2002-03. These are all the expenditure.

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Sir, this is not for Assam only. My specific question was, what you have given for Assam?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The figures which I have stated are for Assam only.

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: It has been stated in the reply that no funds could be released during 2002-03 since the State Government did not adopt the resolution for establishment of FDAs.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: That is particularly for restructured scheme of afforestation called 'National Afforestation Programme' implemented through the mechanism of FDA and not for anything else. What I said was absolutely correct.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Due to increased deforestation activities, the natural habitat of wildlife has been depleted in Assam to a great extent. In the Kaziranga National Park, there are a large number of elephants. Their number has increased disproportionately to their natural habitation.

They have caused damage to the agricultural crops and also, killed a lot of people. What specific action has been taken by the Ministry on this menace caused by the excessive number of wild elephants?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I think my dear friend, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, is misinformed. To be very frank, according to the 1999 survey, the total area under forests was 23,688 square kilometres. As per the 2001 survey, it is about 27,714 square kilometres, an increase of about 4026 square kilometres. So, forest cover had increased in Assam. As far as wildlife is concerned, Shri Bardolai is the hon. Minister of State for Environment and Forests; he met me last Friday. He has presented the problems being faced in Assam and informed that 27 FDAs have been formed. They have sent the proposal only in July. We are considering them and Rs. 4-5 crores assistance will be extended this year.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Sir, Kaziranga is a very important National Park in Assam which was established in order to protect the environment. Now, it is in constant danger. It is under constant danger due to heavy floods in the area. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what measures have been taken by the Ministry of protect Kaziranga and to develop the National Park during the Tenth Five Year Plan. What is the amount sanctioned?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: During the last week, when Shri Bardoloi met me, he specifically requested that the Kaziranga National Park be protected during monsoon because of floods, a lot of animals pass across the national highways. For that purpose, he wanted to have a tunnel, over-ground or underground. As far as the super-structures are concerned, it is not within the domain of this Ministry. So, I requested him to prepare a feasibility report. As soon as we get the feasibility report, we will take up the issue with the other concerned departments.

*87. [*The questioner (Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao) was absent for answer vide page 49-52.*]

Platforms at Madurai railway station

*88. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madurai railway station has a heavy traffic but there